

CLASS RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

I would like to personally welcome each and every one of you to the sixth grade! I'm sure that you all have had a great summer, and you just can't wait to start studying and doing homework. I believe in having some fun while you learn, but we cannot do this unless we observe the rules and expectations that I have put in place for you.

Want to do well in my class? Follow these simple rules and you should do just fine!

- ☺ 1. Everyone & everything in the room is treated with respect. Don't touch anything if it is not yours!
- ☺ 2. If I'm trying to TEACH, everyone is listening. Listen to fellow students when they are speaking in class.
- ☺ 3. Raise your hand if you wish to respond to a question or make a comment.
- ☺ 4. Come to class prepared.
- ☺ 5. Try your best.

ESSENTIAL MATERIALS (stuff you'll need)

The Homework/Classwork Notebook: I am requiring that all students have a homework/classwork notebook. Occasionally we may create diagrams, write lab reports, write papers, define words, write lists, construct graphs, etc. in this book.

THE BINDER: You must have a science binder to put your materials in. These materials include all notes, diagrams, and tests that we take for each unit. At the end of each quarter, we will usually clean out the binders by putting all materials from them in your science folders (that I will keep for you). I will periodically check these binders to make sure your work is getting done. I do not care what size this binder is (or how many subjects you hold in it).

BOOK(S): We will use an Earth Science **textbook** for certain class work assignments during science class, but **no book will be sent home**. We will occasionally use various science encyclopedias and science-based Scholastic magazines to work on non-fiction reading skills during science class.

WRITING UTENSILS: You may use a **pen or a pencil** in science class. I suggest using a pencil, for obvious reasons. Also, different colored pens and/or **highlighters** can be very helpful, particularly when creating and labeling diagrams.

GRADING POLICY

My goal is that each of you becomes proficient in the Earth & Space learning standards that have been set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Using questioning, feedback, discussions, and observations, it is my hope that areas of difficulty for you can be identified, reviewed, and revisited until each of you is proficient with all of the learning standards.



1. Homework: Homework will count for **10%** of your letter grade. Your homework will usually be in the form of a class summary (a Type 3 paper), and will be graded as a quiz. I will give you an additional handout that explains this information in much more detail soon.

2. Classwork: Classwork will count for **10%** of your letter grade. Classwork comes in many forms, from group work to worksheets to diagrams. Your classwork will be graded as follows:

0: Not done.

Check Minus: Partially completed or completed, but not satisfactorily.

Check: Completed to normal standards.

Check Plus: Completed beyond expectations.

At the end of each term I will add up the total # of checks that you received, and divide this total by the number of checks that you could have received. This will account for a grade that will then be computed as 10% of your total grade.

3. Quizzes, etc.: Quizzes, certain papers, lab-related work, diagrams, etc. will count for **30%** of your letter grade.

4. Tests: Unit tests will count for **50%** of your letter grade.

In order to get an A in class, you must demonstrate that you understand the material that is being taught in class (based on the MA standards). If you pay attention and give an honest effort, you should easily be able to do very well.

Once you have completed a unit test, you may attempt to earn back points on the test if you are not satisfied with your grade. You can only do this if you show me that you have demonstrated an "honest effort" by showing me the completion of all of the notes, binder pages, handouts, homework, and classwork for the unit in question. I will discuss this in more detail during the first unit.

OTHER STUFF

- ✱ My **planned** after school help day this year will be _____. I ask that if you would like to stay after for extra help that you come to me and let me know that you are interested in staying after.

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE

Rewards

- * Each year I try some sort of reward system based on tickets, points, prizes, etc. You will earn some sort of ticket or other reward for good behavior, test scores, etc. You may then be able to win prizes with your tickets.

Punishments

- ✱ In order to make things clearer for you, I've decided to use a type of "warning" system for discipline. If you fail to follow the class rules regarding talking, not listening, preparation etc., you will earn a **warning**. If you earn *3 warnings in a 5 day period*, you will receive a detention (**1/2 to 1 hour**) and I will call home immediately to notify parents/guardians of the nature of the offense. I will let you know how many warnings you have each time you earn one, so you will know where you stand with me during any given week.

When a new week is started on a Monday, all warnings from the previous week are cleared. However, if you get **2 warnings for 3 consecutive weeks**, (meaning they consistently are having a problem following class rules), you will automatically receive the aforementioned detention and phone call. If you get a detention from having 3 or more warnings for several consecutive weeks, you will be paying a visit to the Assistant Principal to discuss your problem(s).

***Parents/Guardians:** *If there are any aspects of this document that you would like clarified, or if you would like to discuss your child's progress throughout the year, please don't hesitate to call/email me. Also, don't forget to call the school (388-0515) for the **homework hotline** information every night. This will allow you to check your son or daughter's work and to find out if there are any upcoming quizzes, tests, or project deadlines that you should be aware of.*

When you and your parent/guardian have finished reading this entire document, please put your signatures below. Your signatures simply let me know that you have read my class rules and expectations and realize that there will be consequences for your (the student, obviously) actions if you make poor decisions.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____